

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We write with respect to the World Health Organization's (WHO) ongoing negotiations on a global agreement on "pandemic prevention, preparedness and response".

As you know the WHO and its member countries have begun negotiations on a pandemic accord. You and Secretary Becerra have appointed Pamela K. Hamamoto as the negotiator representing the United States during these discussions.

According to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report published last month, the federal government has spent approximately \$4.6 trillion in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This, coupled with the human cost in lives, and other effects such as learning loss and mental health effects, make the true cost of the pandemic difficult to fully grasp, but we can all agree it was a major global event.

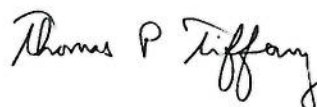
It is for this reason that we believe any agreement, accord, or arrangement should be submitted to the Senate as a treaty. Simply put - something of this magnitude deserves the process our founders laid out in the Constitution. Article II, section two states that the President, "shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur".

In this spirit, we wish to highlight H.R. 1425 and S. 444, the No WHO Pandemic Preparedness Treaty Without Senate Approval Act. There is a process for the Executive and the Legislative branches to work together on matters of great importance and that process is very clearly laid out in the Constitution. We expect that you adhere to this process, especially given the gravity of the subject matter.

Sincerely,



Erin Houchin
Member of Congress



Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Glen Grothman
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress